

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-70 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 2, and 3 have been amended.

**I. Claim Objections**

The redundant phrase in claim 1 that the Examiner objected to has been deleted.

**II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

All of the pending claims were rejected as allegedly being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by US Patent No. 6,001,231 (“Kopf-Sill”). The amendments made to claim 1 introduce a limitation that is not taught in Kopf-Sill. Specifically, Kopf-Sill does not appear to disclose any method of monitoring flow rates that involves “identifying or quantifying differences in area”. The introduction of the “area” limitation to claim 1 should render all pending claims allowable over Kopf-Sill since all of the pending claims ultimately depend from claim 1, and thus all contain the “area” limitation.

The amendments made to claims 2 and 3 were made to reconcile those claims with the amendments to claim 1.

Appl. No. 09/760,009 filed 01/11/2001  
Parce, et al.  
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

